



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 500 POUNDS PER DAY IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS

The daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds beginning 12:01 a.m., March 20, 2004, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) reduced the trip limit after determining that 390,234 pounds (or 75 percent) of the 520,312-pound quota for this fishery segment will be taken by that date.

The 500-pound trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone. The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which, from November 1 through March 31, extends south and west from a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary (25° 20.4' N. lat) to a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County boundary (26° 19.8' N. lat), i.e., the Gulf and Atlantic waters off Collier and Monroe counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which lies

between the Lee/Collier County boundary and a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County boundary (25° 48' N. lat.), i.e., Gulf waters off Collier County (See figures below).

The 500-pound daily trip limit will remain in effect until the 520,312-pound quota is reached or through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2004, whichever occurs first. When commercial landings for this fishery segment reach the quota level, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the 2003/2004 fishing year. The closure will be effective upon filing the notification with the Office of the Federal Register.

A vessel fishing under commercial trip limits and quotas must possess a commercial federal king mackerel permit. Quotas, trip limits (see reverse side of this bulletin), and permits implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) are necessary to protect and rebuild the overfished Gulf group king mackerel resource.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA SUBZONES AND SEASONAL BOUNDARIES

See page for Maps

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2003/2004 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone ¹	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish ²	Nov 1, 2003 until Feb 1, 2004 until	780,469 lb Mar 31, 2004		Opened: Nov 1, 2003	Open: 75 fish/day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 500 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2003 until Oct 30, 2003 until Nov 13, 2003 until	126,563 lb Nov 13, 2003 Jul 1, 2004		Opened: Jul 1, 2003	Closed: Nov 13, 2003
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 2003 until Mar 20, 2004 until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb		Opened: Jul 1, 2003	Open: 500 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 20, 2004 until	520,312 lb		Opened: Jan 20, 2004 ³	Open: 25,000 lb/day
WESTERN ZONE	1,010,00	3,000 lb	Jul 1, 2003 until	1,010,000 lb		Opened: Jul 1, 2003	Closed: Sep 24, 2003
(Texas - Alabama)		0 lb	Sep 24, 2003 until	Jul 1, 2004			
Hook and Line							

¹ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

² Trip limit increased from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2004, when NOAA Fisheries determined that less than 75 percent, or 780,469 pounds, of the Florida east coast subzone quota would not be taken by that date.

³ If the gillnet quota is not harvested this fishing year, this fishery will automatically close from July 1, 2004, until 6:00 a.m., January 18, 2005.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement Division at 727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964. NOAA Fisheries, is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at gulf.council@noaa.gov and safmc@noaa.gov, respectively.